



Naval Station Ingleside

January 19, 2006



USS SAN ANTONIO commissioned Jan. 14

The first of the Navy's newest class of amphibious ship, USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD 17) was commissioned Jan. 14, at Naval Station Ingleside, Texas.

Former President George H. W. Bush was the principal speaker for the commissioning ceremony.

Other distinguished guests included: Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England; Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter; Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Mullen; Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee; Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, Ms. Delores Etter; Congressman Solomon Ortiz; Philip Teel, president of Northrop Grumman Ship Systems; and the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, the ship's sponsor.

The amphibious transport dock USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD 17) is designed and built to support a Marine Air-Ground Task Force capable of conducting conventional or special operations. Its warfighting capabilities include a state-of-the-art command and control suite,

substantially increased landing force vehicle lift capacity, a large flight deck and advanced ship survivability features that enhance its ability to operate in the littoral environment.

SAN ANTONIO is the first Navy ship designed to support the 21st century amphibious mobility triad of air-cushioned landing craft (LCAC), MV-22 Osprey vertical take off and landing aircraft, and Marine Corps expeditionary fighting vehicles. The ship is also the first designed with the advanced enclosed mast/sensor system.

When deployed, SAN ANTONIO will provide naval expeditionary forces with greatly enhanced operational flexibility. The ship is capable of operating independently or as part of an amphibious or joint task force.

The 684-foot, 25,000-ton vessel is the first U.S. Navy ship named for the city of San Antonio, Texas. The ship is commanded by Capt. J. M. Padfield, who, together with his officers and crew of about 360, assumed the duty of making and keeping San Antonio ready for any service required by our nation. In accordance with Navy tradition, the Jan. 14 commissioning ceremonially marked SAN ANTONIO's acceptance by the U.S. Navy.

SAN ANTONIO will be homeported in Norfolk, Va.